

Discontinuation of Radio Watch - March 2, 2012

Written by Metro Fire Communications

Thursday, March 01, 2012 20:28 HRS - Last Updated Monday, March 05, 2012 09:29 HRS

Due to an intermittent failure of the audio portion of the fire station alert system (Red Com), the Department has been required to maintain radio watch periodically. Metro Fire Communications personnel along with ITA Engineering and Dispatch Support continue working unsuccessfully to restore the system on Friday, March 2, 2012. The system will not be restored to normal operations over the weekend. The following information is provided along with interim procedures. This will assure resources are dispatched without delay, while allowing the Department to discontinue radio watch.

The human voice, audio tones or automated digitized voice portion of the fire station alerting is intermittent and cannot be relied upon for dispatches. The data portion is a separate system and is not affected by the Red Com's failure. During dispatches by the MFC, Fire Stations will continue to receive teletype messages, station bells will sound, gong lights will activate, night switches will function and dispatch phones will continue to ring. However, no voice capabilities may occur on the dispatch phones.

In order to reliably discontinue radio watch Station Commanders shall ensure all members monitor all portions of the fire station alert system to ensure all dispatches are received and responses are not delayed. It is imperative that if any part of the dispatch system is activated, members check the teletype for a response. If there is any uncertainty, contact Metro Fire Communications on the Still Alarm number 213-847-5340.

This failure does not affect the voice radio or MDC portion of the dispatch system. Due to heightened concerns with the possibility of missing responses, members shall be diligent and update status immediately via MDC as an acknowledgement of the response. It is important to remember per Manual of Operations the Department business phone will be used as a secondary means of dispatch by the MFC.

Morning and evening testing of the Station Alarm System is suspended until further notice.